



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1919

CONTENTS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science:—

Variable Stars: PROFESSOR HENRY NORRIS
RUSSELL 127

Charles Rochester Eastman: PROFESSOR BASH-
FORD DEAN 139

Scientific Events:—

The Forest Service in War Times; Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia; Salt Requirements of Representative Agricultural Plants; Meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers 141

Scientific Notes and News 144

University and Educational News 146

Discussion and Correspondence:—

On Monkeys trained to pick Coco Nuts: DR. E. W. GUDGER. *Hay Fever and a National Flower:* DR. HORACE GUNTHERP..... 146

Scientific Books:—

Tolman on the Theory of Relativity of Motion: DR. H. B. PHILLIPS 148

Special Articles:—

On explaining Mendelian Phenomena: LOYE HOLMES MILLER. *Silexite, a New Rock Name:* DR. WILLIAM J. MILLER 148

The Western Society of Naturalists 149

The Tennessee Academy of Science: DR. ROS-
COE NUNN 150

VARIABLE STARS¹

THE speaker before such a gathering as this, in this eventful year, faces a dilemma in his choice of a subject. The topic which is foremost in all our minds is, beyond a doubt, the share which our comrades in science have had in carrying to a triumphant close the great work of the war—and an account of this would in some respects be the most suitable subject for a vice-president's address. But most of this work can not be described yet, if at all, for reasons of military secrecy; and it is still too early, in any event, to collect and correlate the records of the work of men who are still in the service, especially when almost the whole of the narrator's time has been spent in attempting, in a very humble way, to aid in the universal effort.

I have therefore chosen the opposite horn of the dilemma, and propose to speak to you to-day upon a topic of pure science—removed perhaps as far as anything could be from the theater of war, trusting to whatever intrinsic interest the subject may possess to atone for the lack of timely interest, and the defects incident to hurried preparation.

Variable Stars have been the objects of human wonder since the appearance of the Nova of Hipparchus led to the preparation of the first catalogue of the positions and magnitudes of the stars. The period of scientific observation of these changes may be dated from Tycho Brahe's observations of the Nova of 1572 and Fabritius' discovery of the periodic variation of *Mira Ceti* in 1596.

For two and a half centuries after this date the number of known variables remained so small that they could almost have been

¹ Address of the vice-president and retiring chairman of Section A—Astronomy—of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Baltimore, December 27, 1918.